



## Road Trips VI: Memory Lane

### OPENING PRAYER

Invite a member of the group to lead prayer.

#### **Read Acts 14:13-20**

“The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates; he and the crowds wanted to offer sacrifice. When the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting, ‘Friends, why are you doing this? We are mortals just like you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. In past generations he allowed all the nations to follow their own ways; yet he has not left himself without a witness in doing good—giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, and filling you with food and your hearts with joy.’ Even with these words, they scarcely restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.

But Jews came there from Antioch and Iconium and won over the crowds. Then they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. But when the disciples surrounded him, he got up and went into the city. The next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe.”

Paul and Barnabas entered a Jewish synagogue in Iconium and preached the Good News. Many accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The Jewish leaders became jealous and began to hatch a plot to have Paul and Barnabas stoned. Paul and Barnabas became aware of the plot and left immediately. They continued their missionary efforts in Lystra where they encountered a man who was unable to walk. Paul saw that the man had faith. He commanded the man to walk; the man jumped to his feet and he was healed. The pagans were amazed by Paul and Barnabas' prophetic act and mistook Paul for the pagan god, Zeus, and Barnabas for the pagan god, Hermes. As a result, the pagans attempted to offer sacrifices to Paul and Barnabas. Paul and Barnabas tore their clothes and explained:

- Paul and Barnabas were mortals who were bringing the Good News.
- The living God is the Creator of heaven and earth. Turn from those idol/nonliving gods.
- The living God maintains his witness through redeeming and sustaining creation. Just look at the provision that God has made for you through water to drink and food to eat. God offers us more than a full stomach. God offers a harvest that fills our heart.

However, the people appeared to be stuck in their ways, and still wanted to offer sacrifices to Paul and Barnabas. The people were so starstruck by the messengers that they refused to accept the source of the miracle, the living God. The Jewish leaders who ran Paul and Barnabas out of Iconium show up and convince the people that Paul and Barnabas should be stoned. How could the crowd so quickly turn against Paul and Barnabas? Secondly, why would Jewish leaders join forces with pagans? If Paul and Barnabas had accepted the sacrifices of the pagans, it would have further affirmed their beliefs about their idol gods. However, Paul and Barnabas challenged those beliefs which likely caused some conflict. Paul and Barnabas had also upset the status quo of the Jewish synagogue. So, both groups had reason to work together to rid themselves of these two troublemakers. Paul and Barnabas became scapegoats. Paul was stoned until they thought he was dead. A group of disciples surrounded him, and he was revived. After being run out of town in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, Paul and Barnabas returned to those cities to preach the Gospel.

# GROUP REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Share where you've seen God at work in your life this week.

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Share a time when you were rejected because you were doing the right thing. What did you learn about yourself? About God? About others?

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Have you ever been knocked down by life or experienced some overwhelming hardship that caused others to believe you would never rebound? Who were the people who surrounded you and helped you get back on your feet?

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Is our faith so pervasive, so apparent, so real, that the world/evil sees us as a threat?

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What was the most impactful thing that you learned from the sermon, podcast, or the sermon series curriculum?

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What are your highs and lows from this past week? What are your prayer concerns?

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# PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Please go around the group and have each person share a praise for this week and a prayer request/concern.

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## CLOSING PRAYER

Have a volunteer lead closing prayer: asking for prayer concerns and lifting up the needs of the group.

## DAILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Please answer these during your personal devotional time at the end of the day or do it as a couple or family.

Where have you seen God today? For the children, we say, "what made you happy today?"

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What broke your heart or made you sad today?

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What good thing did you do for someone else today?

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What are you thankful for today?

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